

News & Notes

Sunday School Roundup

Please enroll your PK-8th grade children A.S.A.P. Registration forms are on the entryway table.

6th – 8th Grade Catechism Classes

...begin after Labor Day (Tue / Thu for St. John students and after school on Wednesdays for Wrightstown MS students). If you haven't received an email from Pastor and have a child in those grades, please touch base with him.

CPH Fall Bible Sale

Several Bibles and resources are discounted, and you can view samples and find order forms in the entryway. NOTE that the Bible translation of the *Lutheran Study Bible* is the ESV, not NIV or the newer EHV.

Apple Valley Food Pantry Donations

This month's collection date is the 17th. Especially needed: cranberry sauce, stuffing, cereal, chunky soup, canned fruit, rice, boxed & canned potatoes, canned meats (ham / tuna / salmon), cake mix & frosting, and household & hygiene products.

REMINDER: Thanksgiving donations are given in October and Christmas donations in November.

Disposal of Old Fellowship Hall Tables

A few 6-foot (non-adjustable-height) tables are still available for purchase – suggested \$5 each. Contact Don Treptow if you're interested.

Reformation 500 Service

The congregations of the Valley will join for a special service on Sat., Oct. 28th, at 2pm at the Appleton P.A.C. Seating is limited to the first 2,000 people, and FREE tickets are required. (FYI, only 500 tickets are left.) Simply go to goo.gl/aaJBAk to get some for your family.

St. John School Snack Donations

In an effort to reduce expenses, we appreciate any member donations. If you find a good deal while out and about, consider picking up some snacks and donating them to our school. Snacks can be fruit cups, yogurt, crackers, pretzels, etc.

WELS Member Seeking Work

Jeremy Wittig, a member of Zion, Morrison (and our assistant wrestling coach) was recently laid off and is asking that any job opportunities (engineering / manufacturing) be passed along: JeremyWittig@yahoo.com or (920) 864-2322.

WELS Mission to the Children Collection

This year's collection from NE WI congregations, LWMS groups, and individuals is for new children's undergarments (t-shirts, underwear, and socks). Items must be **NEW** and **IN STORE PACKAGING** in order to transport them across the border. The mission serves many children in northern Mexico with services, Bible classes, food coupons, and humanitarian items. Several vehicles will take the items to Tucson in mid-October, so please have your donations in the narthex boxes **no later than Oct 1st**.

Online Talent Database Form

Please submit a form (goo.gl/e1fwsb) so that we can have an up-to-date record of our members' talents, as well an indication of the ways members would like to serve. Thanks!

WELS United Events at Sister Congregations

Speak with Pastor for any info on the following:

- **Recovery through Christ** (for addicts) and **Peace through Christ** (for friends and family of addicts) at Mt. Olive, Appleton
- **Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace"** seminar at Immanuel, Greenville
- **GriefShare** at Beautiful Savior, Green Bay

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3rd and 4th, 2017



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

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 Mrs. Jennifer Bunn, Grades 1-3 (920) 217-3405
 Mrs. Rebecca Wicks, Pre-K and K..... (920) 809-8648
 Miss. Jamie Buss, Preschool and Pre-K (920) 538-0470
 Mr. Terry Sieker, Congregation President (920) 864-7307
 Fox Valley Lutheran High School (920) 739-4441

Service Theme for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: The Church is meant for all people. The Prayer of the Day reminds us that it is only by God's gift of grace that we come into his presence to offer true and faithful service. Today's lessons teach that the gift of grace given to Israel, God also intended to give through Israel to the world. The Church is meant for all people: a display of God's mercy and a result of the living and active Word of God.

Divine Service II

Opening Hymn..... *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”* (CW 402)

Invocation¹

In the name of the Father and of the Son [✝] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Absolution²

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✝] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)³ **Mark 10:47**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

¹ The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

² “The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners” (The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?). See John 20:21-23.

³ *Kyrie* is the Greek word for *Lord*. The expression “Lord, have mercy” is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

Blessing¹⁸ **Numbers 6:24-26**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and [✝] give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn *“Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations”* (CW 577)

***Last Week's Stewardship of the Means of Grace
and the Means for His Work***

Worship 117 ABC: 26

	<u>Aug 27</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$12,544.07	\$61,920.17	\$75,267.18

The Week+ Ahead as We Live in God's Grace

Today (3rd)	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
Mon (4th)	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tue (5th)	8:30 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm	St. John School Opening Service (at church) Martha's Circle Board of Elders Meeting
Wed (6th)	6:45 am 3:30 pm	Breakfast & Bible Study (The Augsburg Confession) 6 th – 8 th Grade Catechism Class (WMS students)
Sun (10th)	7:45 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Worship Sunday School (Adam and Eve) Adult Bible Class (Galatians) Worship
Mon (11th)	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Pastors Circuit Meeting (here at St. John) Church Council Meeting
Tue (12th)	11:30 am	Senior Luncheon (all members are always invited)
Sun (17th)	11:30 am	Fall Festival Potluck
Mon (25th)	1:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive

¹⁸ The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them” (Numbers 6:27).

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution¹⁶

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)¹⁷ Luke 2:29-32

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|---|---|
| <p>1. O Lord, now let your servant
 Depart in peace, assured:
 For I have seen your promised
 incarnate, saving Word—
 A Light that will enlighten
 All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
 The brilliant, crowning glory
 Of those in Israel!</p> | <p>2. All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever three in one;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God’s triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.</p> |
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Closing Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

¹⁶ The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord’s Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.

¹⁷ The *Nunc Dimittis* (“Now dismiss”) is also known as the “Song of Simeon.” Through God’s Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

Amen.

Glory Be to God (Gloria in Excelsis)⁴ Luke 2:14

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| <p>1. All glory be to God on high!
 Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
 We praise you for your peace and grace,
 Your favor toward our fallen race.</p> | <p>3. O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
 You take all human sin away.
 Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
 From God’s right hand, your mercy share.</p> |
| <p>2. Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
 For your great glory, heav’nly King,
 For all, O Father, you have done
 Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.</p> | <p>4. You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
 The Father’s glory you made known.
 We by your Spirit sing again:
 “All glory be to God!” Amen.</p> |

The Word

Salutation⁵

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson Joshua 2:8-21 (EHV)

⁴ Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. “Glory to God in the Highest” has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

⁵ This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word section and the Sacrament section of the service.

It is reasonable that spies would hide themselves in a house of prostitution. It is reasonable, too, that this prostitute Rahab tried to cut a deal to preserve her life in the face of the Israelite onslaught that the whole city knew was coming. But what reason is there that she did it out of faith in the LORD? What reason did she find to have faith in the God of free and faithful love? There is no reason for that but the unreasonable gift of God worked in her heart by the living and active Word of God. Clearly, God meant his Church to be for all people. But he didn't stop there! What reason could there be that this foreign woman, this prostitute from a godless country, that hers would be the womb through which line of the Blessed Seed would descend? There is no reason for that at all. That can only be grace. Grace meant for all people.

⁸But before the men lay down, Rahab came up to them on the roof. ⁹She said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land. Because of you, terror has fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land are melting in fear before you. ¹⁰Indeed, we have heard that the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea in front of you when you came out of Egypt, and we heard what you did to the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan—to Sihon and to Og. We heard that you devoted them to destruction. ¹¹We heard, and our hearts melted, and no one's courage could hold up anymore against you, because the LORD your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth below. ¹²So now, please swear to me by the LORD that since I have shown kindness to you, you in turn will show kindness to my father's house. Give me a trustworthy sign ¹³that you will preserve the lives of my father and mother and my brothers and sisters and all who belong to them, and that you will deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴The men said to her, "If you do not reveal what we are doing, our lives are pledged for your lives, even to the point of death. Then when the LORD gives us the land, we will show mercy and faithfulness to you." ¹⁵So she let them down through the window with a rope, since her house was built into the city wall, and she was living inside the wall. ¹⁶She said to them, "To the hill country! Get moving, so the pursuers do not catch up with you. Hide there for three days until the pursuers return, and then you can go on your way." ¹⁷The men said to her, "When we come into the land, we will be free from this oath you made us swear ¹⁸unless you tie this bright red cord in the window through which you let us down, and you gather your father and mother, your brothers and your father's entire household into your house. ¹⁹Anyone who goes outside the doors of your house, his blood will be on his own head, and we will be free of guilt. Anyone who is with you in the house, his blood will be on our heads if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰If you tell what we are doing, we will be free from the oath that you made us swear." ²¹She said, "Just as your words say, so be it!" Then she sent them out, and they went away. And she tied the bright red cord in the window.

Second Lesson Romans 11:13-15, 28-32

On this day celebrating faith for the Gentiles, St. Paul warns his Gentile readers against any pride on their part or prejudice against the Jews. Note the point of this Apostle to the Gentiles: he reaches out to the Gentile with the hopes of also winning the Jew. Verse 15 makes the point of our Gospel lesson. Rejection by the people of Israel meant Christ would be preached to the Gentiles. How personal this statement is for Paul! How many synagogues had he preached in, only to be cast out and make his way to the Gentiles? But yet Israel retains its dual status: enemies that are beloved. When the nation of Israel turned from its Savior God and his Messiah, God set his face against them as enemies of the Gospel. But yet God's call and his Word of promise remain. Such is grace, that God does not love the lovable, but makes the unlovable his dear possession. Just look at what he did with the disobedient Gentiles! Both Jew and Gentile apart from Christ languish in the fearful prison called "Disobedience." God shut them up together that locked thus, all hope and all

*By his precious cross, death, and burial,
you have turned the gloomy portal of death into the bright gateway to the everlasting Eden.*

Remembering your Son's death and resurrection, we receive in repentance and joy his body and blood. Strengthen us through this gift for our pilgrimage on earth until, together at last, we shall eat and drink with our Savior anew in the kingdom of God.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.....Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution¹⁴.....Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my [✚] body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my [✚] blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)¹⁵.....John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

¹⁴ As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

¹⁵ Jesus is God's Lamb (*Agnus Dei*), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)¹² Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

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| <p>1. O holy, holy, holy
 Lord God of pow'r and might,
 Your glory, earth and heaven
 In countless ways recite.
 Hosanna! Come and save us,
 Lord God of hosts on high,
 And in your grace and mercy
 Receive our fervent cry.</p> | <p>2. Hosanna in the highest!
 How truly blest is he
 Who in God's name is coming
 To set his people free!
 He comes to bring salvation
 And with his blood outpoured,
 Deliver us from bondage—
 Hosanna, mighty Lord!</p> |
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Prayer of Thanksgiving¹³

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the universe. Before the creation of the world, you chose to redeem us with the precious blood of your Son,

a Lamb without blemish or defect.

We give you humble and heartfelt thanks that by the mystery of Christ's holy incarnation,

you have made him our brother and helper forever.

By his birth, circumcision, and perfect obedience,

you have purified us from all sin.

By his baptism, fasting, and temptation,

you have become our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

By his agony, bloody sweat, and cruel scourging,

you have crushed the head of our ancient enemy.

¹² Sanctus means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

¹³ Jesus took bread and gave thanks (Matthew 26:26).

self-help were gone. Disobedience was all they had and all they could bring forth. Only one door permits one to leave this prison, and it is inscribed: "God's Mercy." (R.C.H. Lenski)

¹³I am speaking to you Gentiles. For as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I am going to speak highly of my ministry. ¹⁴Perhaps I may make my own people jealous, and so save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, what does their acceptance mean other than the dead coming to life? ²⁸In regard to the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But, in regard to election, they are especially dear for the sake of the patriarchs, ²⁹because God's gracious gifts and call are not regretted. ³⁰For just as you were once disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy due to their disobedience, ³¹so also now they have become disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may be shown mercy too. ³²For God imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may show mercy to all.

Verse of the Day



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the

mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please stand⁶

Gospel Lesson Matthew 15:21-28

Note the context of chapter 15. The children of Israel—and especially their religious leaders—found nothing but fault in Jesus of Nazareth. The chosen people of God to whom belonged the patriarchs, the promises, the covenant and the temple, could see nothing in Christ but a breaker of man-made traditions. Jesus' words to them could not be harsher. They were the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy: their outward rites and rituals belied an inward spiritual emptiness. The very people who should have been closest to Christ were most distant. So Jesus distances himself from them and goes to the Gentile land of ancient paganism, Tyre and Sidon. There he finds a most inexplicable thing. After leaving the land of God's chosen people, Jesus finds a woman—a Canaanite woman—who received the Word of God and trusted in God's promises in a way that shamed every one of the

⁶ The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.

religious teachers. The male leaders of God's people failed to recognize him, but behold! Look carefully! A woman, a Canaanite woman, cries out, "Kyrie eleison!" And to whom does she cry? She called him "Lord, Son of David," with all of its messianic implications. How amazing is the grace of God that chooses the weak and lowly things of the world to shame the wise and proud. Only twice are we told that Jesus called someone's faith great. Both were Gentiles, and both exhibited a God-given trust in the Word and promises of God made man.

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 15.

Glory be to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus left that place and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²There a Canaanite woman from that territory came and kept crying out, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! A demon is severely tormenting my daughter!" ²³But he did not answer her a word. His disciples came and pleaded, "Send her away, because she keeps crying out after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt in front of him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered her, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷"Yes, Lord," she said, "yet the dogs also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, your faith is great! It will be done for you, just as you desire." And her daughter was healed at that very hour.

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day⁷..... "When in the Hour of Utmost Need" (CW 413)

Sermon Matthew 15:21-28

Feast on the Crumbs of Salvation!

Nothing prevented Jesus from preparing the feast.

Faith provides us a place at the feast.



⁷ The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

Nicene Creed⁸

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian⁹ and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Thank-Offering¹⁰

Prayer of the Church

The Sacrament

Preface¹¹

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

⁸ Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

⁹ The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, of every time in history.

¹⁰ Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

¹¹ The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.